

CLAIMS

1. A broadcast system for communicating a broadcast message in a telecommunications system having at least one fixed terminal for communication with one or more portable terminals, said broadcast system including:

first transmitter means for transmitting a first message from the or each fixed terminal, the message including information specifying a channel, selected for that fixed terminal, to convey the broadcast message;

control means for causing the or each portable terminal to receive on the specified broadcast message channel; and

second transmitter means for transmitting from the fixed terminal the broadcast message on the said specified broadcast message channel for reproduction of the broadcast message by the or each portable terminal, wherein the broadcast message channel is connectionless.

2. A broadcast system in accordance with claim 1 wherein the selected channel is established on a DECT physical channel.

3. A broadcast system in accordance with claim 1 wherein the selected channel supports a DECT simplex bearer.

4. A broadcast system in accordance with claim 1 wherein the selected channel supports a connectionless downlink bearer.

5. A broadcast system in accordance with claim 2 wherein the first message is transmitted as a short page message.

6. A broadcast system in accordance with claim 1 and further including:

means for assigning each portable terminal with a broadcast group identity;

means for including broadcast group identity information in the first message; and

means for causing the or each portable terminal to receive on the specified broadcast channel only if the said portable terminal has an assigned broadcast group identity that corresponds to the broadcast group identity transmitted in the first message.

7. A broadcast system in accordance with claim 6 wherein the broadcast group identity information is expressed as a DECT group temporary portable user identity (TPUI).

8. A broadcast system in accordance with claim 1 wherein the broadcast message is initiated at and originates at a portable terminal in communication with the at least one fixed terminal of the system.

9. A broadcast system in accordance with claim 1 and further including:

means for assigning each portable terminal with a broadcast group identity;

means for including broadcast group identity information in the first message; and

means for causing the or each portable terminal to receive on the specified broadcast channel only if the said portable terminal has an assigned broadcast group identity that corresponds to the broadcast group identity transmitted in the first message, wherein the broadcast message is initiated at and originates at a portable terminal in communication with the at least one fixed terminal of the system, and the broadcast group identity information in the first message is selected and originates at the said portable terminal.

10. A broadcast system in accordance with claim 1 and further comprising means for periodic transmission of the first message for the duration of the broadcast message to allow portable terminals to roam into

geographical areas covered by a different fixed terminal and to receive the broadcast from the different fixed terminal even if this requires the roaming portable terminal to receive the broadcast message on a different specified channel and to change the specified channel that it receives on.

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11. A method for communicating a broadcast message in a telecommunications system having at least one fixed terminal for communication with one or more portable terminals, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first message from the or each fixed terminal, the message including information specifying a channel, selected for that fixed terminal, to convey the broadcast message;

causing the or each portable terminal to receive on the specified broadcast message channel; and

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transmitting from the fixed terminal the broadcast message on the said specified broadcast message channel for reproduction of the broadcast message by the or each portable terminal, wherein the broadcast message channel is connectionless.

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12. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the selected channel is established on a DECT physical channel.

13. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the selected channel supports a DECT simplex bearer.

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14. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the selected channel supports a connectionless downlink bearer.

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15. A method in accordance with claim 12 wherein the first message is transmitted as a short page message.

16. A method in accordance with claim 11 and further comprising the steps of:

assigning each portable terminal with a broadcast group identity;
including broadcast group identity information in the first message; and
5 causing the or each portable terminal to receive on the specified broadcast channel only if the said portable terminal has an assigned broadcast group identity that corresponds to the broadcast group identity transmitted in the first message.

10 17. A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein the broadcast group identity information is expressed as a DECT group temporary portable user identity (TPUI).

15 18. A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein the broadcast message is initiated at and originates at a portable terminal in communication with the at least one fixed terminal.

19. A method in accordance with claim 11 and further comprising the steps of:
20 assigning each portable terminal with a broadcast group identity;
including broadcast group identity information in the first message; and
causing the or each portable terminal to receive on the specified broadcast channel only if the said portable terminal has an assigned broadcast group identity that corresponds to the broadcast group identity transmitted in the first
25 message, wherein the broadcast message is initiated at and originates at a portable terminal in communication with the at least one fixed terminal, and the broadcast group identity information in the first message is selected and originates at the said portable terminal.

30 20. A method in accordance with claim 11 and further comprising the step of periodically transmitting the first message for the duration of the broadcast message to allow the portable terminals to roam into geographical

areas covered by a different fixed terminal and to receive the broadcast from the different fixed terminal even if this requires the roaming portable terminal to receive the broadcast message on a different specified channel and to change the specified channel that it receives on.